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Offshore Wind Is Next Clean Energy Wave for Maryland

National Report Tallies Environmental and Jobs Benefits

Cheverly, Maryland – Up and down the Atlantic coast, states and offshore wind developers are making significant progress in advancing offshore projects, according to a new report. The report finds that up to six gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind projects have been proposed along the Atlantic coast – the equivalent of about five coal-fired power plants and enough to power about 1.5 million average U.S. homes annually. Based on government analysis, the Atlantic Ocean has significant offshore wind potential, with over 212 GW of wind resources in shallow waters where current technology is best suited.

The report was released at the site of a wind turbine currently under construction by the Town of Cheverly. The turbine will be visible from Route 50 and will generate enough electricity to offset 50% of the power usage of the Public Works Department.

"The Town of Cheverly is proud to have the National Wildlife Federation and Environment Maryland here to make this announcement, as we share their excitement regarding the future of wind power and its ability to drive job creation. Utilizing federal grant dollars, Cheverly is erecting Prince George's County's first wind tower. Tactical land based implementations such as this serve to complement ocean based wind farms in driving a clean energy economy."

"984 offshore wind turbines are spinning right now in Europe and not one in the Atlantic," said Curtis Fisher, Offshore Wind Initiative Leader at the National Wildlife Federation. "The six gigawatts of proposed Atlantic offshore wind projects are a great

start, but we need a coordinated and comprehensive effort of government and the market to bring these and other projects over the finish line in a way that values the precious Atlantic Ocean ecosystem and its fish and wildlife resources. This new industry holds great potential to create jobs, cut pollution, and reduce our reliance on dirty fossil fuels."

"There is tremendous potential for green job creation – not only in Maryland, but the United States, if we are willing to make the investment," said Jim Strong, Sub-District Director of the United Steelworkers. "Unless we make a strong commitment to keeping green jobs here, those jobs will certainly go elsewhere. Other nations such as China are making those investments."

The report, *Offshore Wind in the Atlantic: Growing Momentum for Jobs, Energy Independence, Clean Air, and Wildlife Protection,* makes the following key findings:

- **Every state with significant offshore wind resources from Maine to Georgia has some taken some steps forward on offshore wind.** Northern states (Maine to Maryland) have the most advanced projects while Southern states (Virginia to Georgia) are quickly mobilizing on a series of projects. See detailed chart and state profiles.
- **The Atlantic's shallow water characteristics combined with excellent wind speed make it an ideal location for offshore wind farms.** 93 percent of offshore wind projects worldwide are in shallow waters (zero to 30 meters deep). Close to half of the United States' shallow water offshore wind is along the Atlantic coast.
- **While the most extensive European study concluded that offshore wind farms do not appear to have long-term or large-scale ecological impacts, major data gaps for the Atlantic Ocean still exist and site-specific impacts need to be evaluated.** A coordinated, comprehensive, and well-funded effort is needed to address these gaps and improve the permitting process.

"This report further highlights the incredible potential for job creating offshore wind power in Maryland," said Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "Under Governor O'Malley's leadership we have made great progress in moving Maryland toward a cleaner, greener energy future."

"Offshore wind power is a great opportunity staring us in the face, and it's time to say yes," said Environment Maryland State Director Brad Heavner. "We would be crazy to ignore this resource that can create jobs while reducing our dependence on dirty coal plants."

"Clean energy, amongst other environmentally sustainable practices, will be a cornerstone of my administration's efforts to make sure Prince George's County becomes a national leader in green technologies," stated County Executive-Elect Rushern L. Baker, III. "I am proud to support Environment Maryland and the National Wildlife Federation in their call to action to generate more wind energy projects on the Atlantic Coast."

"Offshore wind offers the greatest potential source of renewable power for Maryland to be able to reach the state RPS goal for clean energy generation. The state should indeed take advantage our Atlantic coast location, our deep water port and our skilled workforce to attract this industry as an economic development strategy," said Maryland Clean Energy Center Executive Director Katherine Magruder. "Leadership at every level must make it a priority to ensure expedient permitting through the policy and regulatory framework, which combined with the right private capital investment we will achieve both an environmental and economic win for our state."

The report finds that the Atlantic States would generate $200 billion in new economic activity and create more than 43,000 permanent, high-paying jobs if 54 GW of the 212 GW of available offshore wind resources were utilized.

Here in Maryland, the report finds a total 60 GW of offshore wind power potential, 14 GW of which is commercially viable using today's technology. This is equivalent to approximately 60% of our electricity needs. The report includes a chart for each state's offshore wind resource, breaking down the data by water depth and distance offshore.

The report was released along the coast today in conjunction with many national and state partners including environmental, sportsmen, labor, and business organizations. These groups call on the federal government to take the following steps:

- Improve the offshore wind permitting process,
- Identify ideal, high priority sites with limited resource conflicts off of the Atlantic for quick and thorough permitting,
- Invest in and speed research of offshore wind technology and environmental impacts,
- Coordinate planning with existing infrastructure and industries such as ports and fishing.

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